

**ABSTRACT**

A system for managing licenses for protected software on a communication network is disclosed. The system comprises at least one client computer and a pool of license servers coupled to the communication network. The client computers request authorizations to use the protected software. The pool of license servers are programmed for managing a distribution of allocations to use the protected software. Within the pool of license servers is a current leader server programmed for managing the distribution of allocations for the license servers in the pool, and at least one follower server programmed for managing the distribution of allocations for that particular follower server. Each license server stores a status of the allocations for that particular license server, and each follower server communicates the status of the allocations for that particular follower server to the current leader server. Each follower server is capable of becoming a new leader server if the current leader server can no longer manage the distribution of allocations for the license servers.

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